

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method of searching for data to be retrieved from a distributed computer system, the method comprising: generating a search request at a user end terminal comprising at least one search criterion; modifying the search request at a user end terminal to indicate at least one user preference; forwarding the search request to a proxy terminal arranged to forward the search request to a data source capable of retrieving data from the distributed computer system, the data source being capable of providing a search result to a user end terminal selected in accordance with one or more predetermined user preferences.